The second point about which he was very keen was that indoor meetings should be allowed to be held. To that also, I have given permission by saying "so long as it is confined to the hall"; it should not spill out of the hall——the crowd who are coming to attend the meeting or going out of the meeting after the meeting is over should strictly observe restrictions imposed by sec. 144 CrPC. If they create any problem of law and order on the way, the organisers of the meeting will have to assume responsibility. They must also take care and see that they hold their meeting inside the hall. The indoor meeting that they wanted to have—and I have agreed that they can hold such of their meetings indoors. We have no objection provided the Organizers give this kind of an undertaking.

The third point was about all those people who had their past association with the R.S.S., that they are being arrested. I said: "If those who are not associated with the R.S.S. or at one time they were associated but they are not active participants now, they are not doing any kind of activity certainly, we are not interested in arresting them." That kind of assurance also I have given.? In fact, if he tells the officer who has come to him, "I am not now associating myself with the R.S.S.", there will be no reason as to why he should be arrested.

I think these were the three points which were raised and about which I have given a very clear and categorical reply to Atal Ji and through you, Sir, we will request him not to continue his fast. He should give up his fast afer these assurances which the Government has given.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will pass on to the next item of business of the House—Statement by Minister correcting answer to question. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA (West Bengal): Mr. Chairman, Sir, we wanted to make a submission.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We have discussed it sufficiently and the Home Minister has given an appropriate reply.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Low Productivity of Indian Labour

*381. DR. SANJAYA SINH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian labour has been the least productive in the World;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what corrective steps Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) According to the data compiled by the Asian Productivity Organisation published in "Comparative Information on Productivity Levels and Changes in A.P.O. Member Countries-1991" the Indian workers' output per year at 1980 prices in terms of US $ has been the lowest among the workers of the major Asian Countries for the years 1980-89. A statement indicating the output per worker per year during 1980-89 among the major Asian Countries is given in the Annexure.

[*See* appendix CLXV, Annexure No. 72]

(c) The steps taken by the Government to improve productivity include setting up of the National Productivity Council announcement of New Industrial Policy which,

inter-alia, seeks to strengthen the forces of technological change and modernisation; skill upgradation; efforts to improve industrial relations, improvement in industrial health and occupational safety; promotion of workers' education and their participation in management; and improvement in the welfare and working conditions of the workers. It has also been decided in the Standing Labour Committee to set up Bipartite Productivity Councils at the national, regional, industrial and plant levels.

Fishing Vessel Charter Policy

@*382. SHRI BISHAMBHAR NATH PANDE: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that nearly two-third of the fisheries potential of the country's exclusive economic zone, valued at Rs. 15,000 crores in foreign exchange remain unexploited due to the delay in the implementation of the Fishing Vessel Charter Policy of 1989; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

As against an estimated exploitable potential of 3.9 million tonnes per annum of fisheries resources in the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), about 2.4 million tonnes per annum is being exploited at present. In order to exploit the remaining resources, Government has announced a new deep sea fishing policy in 1991, involving joint ventures, leasing and test fishing, which has been implemented. The 1989 Charter Policy has not been operationalised.

Pakistan and Bangladesh Assistance to Insurgent Groups in North Eastern States

*383. SHRI VISHNU KANT SHASTRI:
DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that different insurgent groups in the North Eastern States are coordinating their activities with active assistance from Pakistan and Bangladesh; if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the number of persons killed by each of the insurgent groups in each of the North Eastern States during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir. According to reports various insurgent groups active in the North-East region are having link with each other and are also coordinating their activities. Reports also indicate existence of contacts in Bangladesh. However, of late contacts of North-Eastern insurgent groups in Pakistan have also come to the notice of the Government. Security Forces are keeping a strict watch over the situation.

@Previously starred Question 362, transferred from 18th December, 1992.